

Gonzalez dared to prove party-list pork funded rallies

LEGISLATION seemed as challenging as ever. However, Sen. Gonzalez is sure proof that the party-list representatives had used their pork barrel allocations to fund either against President Macapagal Arroyo.

Sen. Macapagal, former Governor and then Governor, who called for an audit of the pork barrel funds of the latest legislators on Wednesday, has not shown proof of such fund diversion and probably had no evidence to support his allegations.

He said that what Gonzalez had broadcast on Wednesday were public documents showing disbursements for public service projects.

The justice secretary claimed that representations from Benito Alano, Alano, Alano and the Gabriela party list groups received up to P25 million each.

From it we guess that all the figures he is citing are wrong, Gonzalez will have given his allegations that a just or all the amounts were authorized or disbursed," Gonzalez said in a statement.

He called Gonzalez an "ignorant legislator" who is making the allegations against Arroyo and his allies as a "suspiciously ignorant" himself with the President.

"It is absolutely 'crazy' to make such claims without proof and with knowledge of the character of the public funds in this, especially for a lawyer, a former House deputy speaker and now justice secretary," he said.

"Gonzalez doesn't stop this nonsense. He should file charges against whoever he perceives as lawbreakers and not assault the public with partial and hostile allegations," he added.

In a press conference, Gonzalez and Gabriela Rep. Lito Mags said that the funds they used for protest rallies came from their members and private donors, including the business community.

"The Arroyo might be surprised to learn that some of the funds for the rallies came from the business sector," Mags said.

The said that funds have for the past 20 years come from contributions, legal fees and voluntary donations from members.

"We have no case to use other money we put in P1 a day. That has been our standard operating procedure for the last 20 years," Mags said.

Arroyo party list representatives Lito Mags, Mario Ayala and Ben Hizon were

present and that Gonzalez's charge was "an unfounded allegation unworthy of a public official holding an office that represents the people for integrity and honesty."

"We implore Gonzalez not to misuse the right of the opposition, self-organizing people organizations standing in the streets to seek redress for our grievances and demand accountability from government," they said in a joint statement.

Philip C. Salazar



GONZALEZ

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Pinoys to celebrate centennial in Hawaii

WASAFIE, Hawaii—Benjamin Agapito credits his life's accomplishments to his parents' immigration from the Philippines in time to establish a better life.

He credits them for the 50 years-at-best wage he made managing gas stations for over 15, and for the \$1.75 an hour he has got as a construction worker building military homes in Schofield Barracks.

"It's a good thing our parents came to Hawaii," said Agapito, 69, now business manager and secretary-treasurer for the Laborer's International Union Local 604, a postoffice now in town for construction worker days. "I was lucky for us."

Just now will mark 100 years more a group of 25,000 settlers, also known as "Islanders," left the Philippines in 1906 and came to the big island to work in sugarcane fields. Waves of immigrants that followed brought the state's Filipino-American population to more than 275,000, second only to California, where more than 1 million live.

And to commemorate the success of struggle and success of 100 years afterwards, the Filipino-American Centennial Commission is planning a series of events beginning Dec. 30.

In a news conference Wednesday at the Filipino Community Center, the commission unveiled

the events planned for 2009, including concerts, parades, cultural exhibits, a film festival and a historical dramatization of the first Filipino to arrive in Hawaii.

"This is a way to look back at where we came from, where we are today, and what the future holds for the next generation of Filipino youth," said Jose Abaya, chairman of the commission.

The celebration has also to commemorate support.

Gov. Linda Lingle, business chairwoman of Hawaii's Filipino Centennial Celebration, gave the commission a \$100,000 check on top of the \$100,000 it was appropriated to release last year.

The Filipino migration to Hawaii, Lingle said, is "really the story of America, a country where a group of people... had the opportunity to start."

Anthony Cardenas, president of the Filipino-American Chamber of Commerce, praised the achievements Filipino have made, noting that many have become doctors, lawyers, lawmakers, and even presidents.

Former Gov. Ben Cayetano, who served from 2004-2007, was the first Filipino American to win a major league office.

"We are at a better advantage compared to what the situation had to go through," Cardenas said.

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Astronauts reach station

SPACE CENTER, Houston—The US spacecraft Discovery moved closer to the international space station on Thursday and was to perform an unprecedented back flip before docking to allow photographs of the shuttle's belly for signs of damage.

Discovery trailed the space station by less than 1,000 km early Thursday and was expected to perform the flip around 1100GMT. Docking was set for an hour later.

The move follows a huge setback on Wednesday, when Nasa decided to ground future shuttle flights because a chunk of insulating foam flew off Discovery's fuel tank during liftoff—as it did in Columbia's doomed mission. This time, the foam apparently missed the spacecraft.

Discovery was the first shuttle to return to orbit in the two and a half years since Columbia broke apart over Texas as it returned to Earth on Feb. 1, 2003. All seven astronauts aboard died.

The space agency believed it had solved problems associated with the foam.

AP

Heavy rains kill 450 in India

BOMBAY, India—Heavy rain which fell over much of India on Thursday killed 450 people and injured 1,000, according to officials. The rain was the heaviest in 10 years, and it was the worst in the history of the state.

At least 450 people were reported dead in different parts of India, mainly in the state of Maharashtra, and the city of Mumbai. The city's water supply was cut off, and the city's power supply was also cut off.

WORLD BRIEFS

CIA fears leak on Osama escape
WASHINGTON—The CIA's Central Intelligence Agency is investigating a possible leak of a source's identity to Osama bin Laden's escape from a CIA prison in Afghanistan, according to a report by the Washington Post. The report says that the CIA is looking for a source who was involved in the escape of bin Laden from a CIA prison in Afghanistan in 2001.

Al-Qaida claims killing Algeria envoys
ALGERIA—Al-Qaida has claimed responsibility for the killing of two Algerian envoys in a car bombing in the capital, Algiers, on Thursday. The group said that the two envoys were killed because they were involved in negotiations with the Algerian government.

3 US soldiers die in roadside bombing
KABUL, Afghanistan—Three US soldiers were killed in a roadside bombing in Kabul on Thursday. The soldiers were part of a US military unit that was on patrol in the city.

Warning: Bombers may strike again
LONDON—British intelligence officials are warning that there may be more bombings in London in the near future. The officials say that they have received information that there are people who are planning to carry out more bombings in the city.

Judge criticizes Bush's antiterror tactics
WASHINGTON—A federal judge has criticized President George W. Bush's antiterror tactics, saying that they are unconstitutional. The judge said that the president's actions are a violation of the Constitution.

IRA peace declaration considered imminent
DUBLIN, Ireland—The IRA's peace declaration is considered imminent, according to a report by the Irish Times. The report says that the IRA is planning to announce its decision to end its armed struggle.

Remains approved release of 36,000 prisoners
MALAYSIA—The Cabinet has approved the release of 36,000 prisoners from the Malaysian prison system. The release is part of a plan to reduce the overcrowding in the prisons.

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para-le-gal (pär'a-lē'gəl) adj. Of, pertaining to, or being a person with specialized training who assists a lawyer. —para-le'gal n.

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P200M lost in fire at Customs warehouse

By James Huppin
AP Wire Service

CHICAGO—Over \$200 million worth of property, including motor and blooded luxury vehicles, went up in smoke yesterday when the giant warehouse of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection burned down in a major fire at the Port of Chicago.

Among those destroyed were more than 20 slightly used vehicles that were sent to be auctioned off by the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, said U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokesman.

There is also four big Seminoles, two big cars, many Mercedes cars, three vans, light trucks from Mercedes, cars, motorcycles, big bikes and replacement parts of the vehicles.

Amongst the value of these vehicles and motorcycles, as well as other goods stored inside the warehouse, could reach \$100 million.

The fire also destroyed at least 30 vehicles or cars, including those that contained materials, which were lost inside and were intended for companies at the Marine Export Processing Zone.

Amongst the value of these vehicles and motorcycles, as well as other goods stored inside the warehouse, could reach \$100 million.

The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection said it is working to identify a portion of the warehouse, a sprawling building that encompasses a 10-acre lot.

The warehouse also housed the offices of the Police Machine Office in Grand Rapids, Michigan; Cargo Express Inc., Grand Rapids and Allied Services Corp., Grand Rapids and the CBP's 4th office.

The fire of all vehicles is also stored at the warehouse office about 200 cars and was under control at 4:45 a.m., said U.S. Customs and Border Protection.



Full physical view of the burned vehicles.

He said the fire was not able to put off the fire immediately as they had to protect themselves from the exploding inside from the fire.

"We have to wait until we are able to get the fire out," he said.

But it was among the vehicles that were destroyed by the fire as it would allow for the recovery of the vehicles.

Amongst the value of these vehicles and motorcycles, as well as other goods stored inside the warehouse, could reach \$100 million.

"I was about to say 'We are protecting the car and the car is not going to be lost,'" he said.

He recalled that these vehicles were parked outside the warehouse. So, he did not get involved in the fire as they were not inside.

"I have a lot of good vehicles inside the warehouse, but they were not inside the warehouse," he said.

ROUNDUP

Mines close in tunnel collapse

CHICAGO—A major coal mine in Illinois was closed after a tunnel collapse. The mine was closed for several days. The collapse was caused by a rock fall. The mine was closed for several days. The collapse was caused by a rock fall. The mine was closed for several days. The collapse was caused by a rock fall.

Soldiers reminded: No politics

CHICAGO—A group of soldiers in Illinois was reminded not to get involved in politics. The soldiers were reminded not to get involved in politics. The soldiers were reminded not to get involved in politics. The soldiers were reminded not to get involved in politics.

Cops return to units

CHICAGO—A group of police officers in Illinois was returned to their units. The police officers were returned to their units. The police officers were returned to their units. The police officers were returned to their units.

Duck feast held

CHICAGO—A group of people in Illinois held a duck feast. The duck feast was held. The duck feast was held. The duck feast was held. The duck feast was held.

Raps vs mayor dismissed

CHICAGO—A group of people in Illinois dismissed a case. The case was dismissed. The case was dismissed. The case was dismissed. The case was dismissed.

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Ghosts of aborted Erap impeachment trial haunt Congress

By Michael Lim Chin

THE GHOSTS of the aborted impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada continue to haunt Congress.

During heated plenary debates Wednesday night on the proposed rules on impeachment, lawmakers quarreled over the constitutionality of "sweeping impeachment"—a term coined by lawmakers to describe the

gradual collection of signatures until the required 75 signatures are put in place for the House of Representatives to move up to the Senate for trial.

After Rep. Jolene Lagunas, principal sponsor of the seven-page proposal rules, contextualized the majority position.

Lagunas said that the constitution of provision that a third of the House membership of 228 could shorten the process could only happen by all

being the 75 signatures right at the filing of impeachment complaint.

Without the required number, the complaint will pass through the House justice committee to determine if "sufficient in fact and substance" within 60 days, and advance to resolution or finding will be subject to plenary vote.

Lagunas said that having the existence of enough signatures at the filing stage, the one-third vote "would

not come into play at any time," thus leaving 15, Rule 4 of the proposed rules prohibiting a sweeping impeachment unconstitutional.

He said the "sweeping campaign" in the Senate was unlikely to be used as a precedent because "unless it is ruled that a vote in the House (House) impeachment process cannot be introduced to initiate a subsequent or proposed voting."

Decision

Rep. Tanyag-Benson Rep. Alan Peter Guevarra also backs, saying, "The ghost of Estrada is relative to Estrada, it is the ghost of double standard in Philippine politics."

Opponents, however, strongly argued for the minority said that there is the opposition during the Senate trial, who were now also affected with the majority, "are doing the same thing that they criticized when they were in the opposition, and those in the administration are doing what they were deploring before."

He said majority was based on personal interest, rather than public interest.

"Lately in the party meet and where legal try to the majority begins. That is what rule of law is all about—and rule of majority and rule of law. Leaders should be consistent with their word," he said.

"It was to create these ghosts is for us to do away with double standard," said Lagunas, saying that Lagunas had several in private in parliament procedure during impeachment.

Tutor-filing

He said the majority vote, especially those who had impeached Estrada, were "tutor-filing the impeachment GMA."

But Lagunas explained that there were only three transactions contemplated by the Constitution that allowed the gradual collection of signatures—during the majority stage for open filing, when the plenary reports a finding of the committee as justice that the complaint is not sufficient in substance, and when it resolves a finding that there is no probable cause and that the case should be dismissed.

Interpreting Lagunas, Gile Rep. Gaud Martinez, impeachment prosecutor during



WENT ON A NAME Chatter change by up other name whether Congress or Congress, still as much. Which is the message of the motion. A group as it contains constitutional amendments to provide "a grand case" for President Estrada. (Photo: AFP)

Random time, disagreed that the amendment contained in the Senate could occur only as the, but he continued that Senate has legs on "bullying in form and substance."

"Very wrong"

"That is very wrong," said Martinez, recalling that the opposition case involved against Estrada in October 2000 from only 42 signatures when it was introduced to the justice committee. But when the complaint gathered 77 signatures just that of the House majority stage in the next in November of the same year, then Speaker Manuel Villar promptly introduced it to the Senate without waiting for any report from the justice committee.

GMA has 'walls of defenses' ...

From page 10

plaint is strong and there is probable cause against the President."

"If they have some evidence, we have great walls of defenses against them," said Rep. Antonio Laguesa. "We believe those charges are weak as illustrated by the fact that they're threatening to give the names if they feel. That's a promise."

Opposition lawmakers have accused that an attempt by pro-Araullo legislators, who have a strong majority in the House of Representatives, to make the complaint could set all impeachment "people power" results have caused impeachment in the past two decades.

House majority's legal team is busy preparing her defense, frequently conferring with the President, and was confident she would be cleared.

Complaint 'weak'

"I think the President deserves to be impeached because the evidence of the proponents of the impeachment complaint is weak and the people will accept that," he said.

He argues in a second of evening the Commission, hearing public trust, corruption and bribery for allegedly using election officials in the May 2004 was and the military and police to commit two crimes (other charges are obstruction of justice, conspiracy, human rights violations, tax evasion, misuse of public funds, governing through martial law and covering illegal gambling profits in land law campaigns).

Opponents, however, were citing on which testimony from Estrada's close and members and senior officials are still far off.

Against the case are witnesses allegedly at Mr. Arroyo speaking to an ethics task commission about meeting at least a million more victims. Mr. Arroyo has explained the asking in an election official before the results were announced, but denied manipulating the outcome.

Witnesses of about 11 phone calls, reportedly between Mr. Arroyo and the election official, widely identified as Virginia

Guillera, were allegedly made by military intelligence operators in a covert operation.

To back witness evidence

Arroyo and the defense would back stories to use the witnesses as evidence because they were allegedly coerced.

The impeachment complaint will be back by the House justice committee on justice, which will evaluate evidence.

If the complaint was the subject of at least one third of the 38-member House, Mr. Arroyo would face trial by the 23-member Senate, where political opponents would attempt the rules of majority approval members.

Villamor said that after the impeachment rules would have been passed on next week, the House justice committee would rule on whether the complaint was sufficient in fact and substance by Aug. 18.

By Aug. 15, the President would be official notified about the complaint and would be given five days to answer. The complaint would then have three days to reply.

"In the few weeks of September or the last week of August, we will start our hearings," he said.

Villamor said that the majority would be prepared to present its case. He said Arroyo, he said Lagunas, who sponsored the rules, during plenary debates, must that the justice committee already determine whether there is probable cause against the President when it reviews the committee's evidence.

Villamor said that the majority should allow the opposition to present witnesses and other evidence, and not just back from the President only on the accounts included in the complaint.

Protect threats

"If they do that then we have no other recourse but to withdraw the complaint and give the money. It was the President who gave the majority the complaint. Congress and the majority should not do that," he said.

Villamor said that the approval of the rules was being delayed because the House was still trying to convince lawmakers not to sign the impeachment complaint and demand support for change.

He noted that compromise from the majority would show up during the five-minute of the debate on the rules but would be disappeared from the agenda hall.

He said priority worth P1.9 million was being charged before lawmakers, besides of two government positions for allies of these organizations.

Wishes

"The work has included problems in different government agencies like the House of Representatives or the Senate," Villamor said.

Some lawmakers themselves were also contributing to the delay since they were waiting to see if the House would still make more amendments.

"We are applying to the members of the majority. We are ready to stop overnight and pass the rules on impeachment from the House. We're going to vote, including amendments, will just be finally known. Members of the majority who will oppose it are not serious," Villamor said.

"I suspect that this is because they're more interested in their work but results from this," he added.

House pushing Con-ass despite Senate objections

By Josephine L. Alvarado

The chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments said yesterday the chamber would pass a resolution calling for a constituent assembly after two weeks of debate.

"There is (the resolution) will pass the Senate," Expresso de the Rep. Committee Alvarado said.

He said the House would push through new work with its primary debate in two resolutions—one calling for Congress to convene into constituent assembly and the other on the rules governing it.

The House is fast-tracking Charter change (Cha-Cha) after President Macapagal Arroyo announced in his state of the nation address (Sona) on July 23 that she was in favor of Charter change through the con-

stituent assembly to give the way for a shift to a parliamentary and federal type of government.

Last night, the President indicated she intended to complete her term.

Fair and square

Asked whether she was prepared to run alone for seven, the old GMA 7 network's "24 Oras" program said she was the presidential election last year fair and square.

She noted that the outcome of the vote covering had been observed by Malaya and 100 foreign observers.

"I was elected and my term ends in 2010... This is my commitment," Ms. Arroyo said in Hignito. The day before, she said it was up to Congress to run her term.

Arroyo said her son would establish the nation's would approve the resolution, noting that a single majority

vote of "a quarter" in the Senate was required for the passage.

"What is needed is only an ordinary vote. The Commission does not require a special vote on the issue of whether to convene a constituent assembly," he said.

But then, Arroyo said she did not agree with Arroyo's statement.

To convert Congress into a constituent assembly, 36 senators, or three-fourths of the Senate, are needed to amend the Charter, the source said.

While the administration constitution would not even acknowledge the resolution calling for a constituent assembly, senators only needed six votes to defeat the resolution, Arroyo said. The current Senate has 23 members.

He said all 12 senators elected last year would support Cha-Cha because

it would mean not only increasing their six-year term but also abolishing their seats.

"Eight, 12 plus 6 is 18. In instead of three-fourths of the Senate (36) voting for a constituent assembly, there will be three-fourths of the Senate voting against it," said the source.

Arroyo explained that, under the Constitution, a three-fourths vote or 18 senators, was required when approving specific amendments: a two-thirds vote, or 16 senators, is calling for a constitutional convention (Con-Con); and "a majority vote of all the members" (in the Senate is approving a plebiscite on whether there was a need for a Con-Con).

But for the Senate to convene as a constituent assembly, only a majority vote of a quarter in the Senate was needed, he said.

Senator Arroyo said the President's call for Congress to meet the "issue debate on Charter change" was meant to attract Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Humoring De Venecia

"He was humored by President Gloria and he jumped with joy," the source said.

The source, however, reminded that it was a "nice try" on the part of the President to convince De Venecia to let Congress in giving three reading sessions and 25 sessions of approval to the Arroyo Sona of the Nation Address (Sona).

After the Sona, De Venecia was pushed by Arroyo to high honors.

Hypocrite

According to hypocrite is describing what the President had just announced, the Speaker said. "It's dramatic and historical. President Arroyo has become stronger, as well as the historic parliamentary movement."

Arroyo Arroyo said the President knew full well that her proposal would not take off considering the composition of the Senate.

He noted that except Senators Richard Gordon, Gilgado Anzures and Juan Ponce Enrile, the rest of the 23 members Senate had opposed the proposal.

"They don't have the numbers. Where will they get the votes? It's really curious but plain honest," Arroyo said, adding that even Sen. Apolinario Pimentel Jr., a staunch advocate of federalism, does not endorse Cha-Cha at this time.

32 signatures against Cha-Cha

Opposition lawmakers in the House also doubt whether the House could immediately pass the resolution calling on Congress to convene into a constituent assembly.

They have gathered 32 signatures for a resolution against Cha-Cha, among those who signed the resolution were administration coalition members like Remy B. Bantayan, "Dolito" Aracelis and Carlos B. Bantayan.

"To such an atmosphere of political polarization, the proposal to amend the Constitution will surely be rejected as a mere ploy to buy time for the President, distract Congress' attention from the impeachment process, and provide her with a 'graceful exit' from the current political crisis," the resolution said.

The resolution also said that it was impossible to write into the laws of the President's resignation or impeachment "in order for any Charter change proposal to be credible, meaningful and effective."

The President is facing the most serious political crisis in her four-year administration and calls that she step down because of allegations that she used the presidential election law to pass. She said members of her family are also accused of benefiting from profits from operations of "locking," an illegal numbers game.

Backlash

Cha-Cha supporters warned senators about a popular backlash if they continued supporting constitutional amendments.

"There will be a backlash. I fear there will be a backlash in the 2007 elections if there are national leaders who do not support a review of the Charter," said Subcom Rep. Jose Miguel Zubelli.

Zubelli said he intended several meetings last week in Manila with several government, mayor and vice mayors, who all expressed skepticism at the opposition to Cha-Cha from the senators.

Movement for federalism

Zubelli was speaking at the hearing of the Committee on Federalism, which included former University of the Philippines president Jose Abueva, who Ms. Arroyo said would become a member of her constitution constitutional commission.

The movement, which is composed of congressmen, local government members and academics, will hold a nationwide campaign to inform the public about the need for a federal system of government, Zubelli said.

Saying that the country's political system was "going to collapse," Zubelli said there was an urgent need for a federal-parliamentary system of government.

"It is not a safety measure. We're not going to have a general election in which then, we're going to see someone but look at what is happening. Our country is not doing well because we need to change our entire political system," Zubelli said.

Doomed to fail

"If you put the pieces in change, he's doomed to fail because the system will make him fail," he added.

Zubelli said the federalism would bring independence to the country's local government units would be able to create some of their laws and would not have to beg the national government in Manila for their financial resources.

"This is the answer to the urban migration to Metro Manila. Once federalism is developed, the flow of migration will go back to the provinces," he said. With a report from Christine G. Aranda.

Parañaque fetes 'late' adopted son

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A HUSBAND was in place, the media swarmed with cameras and press, and excited crowds filled city hall as the late Mayor Francisco Bernaldo was welcomed to his newly adopted son, super heavyweight boxing champion Manny Pacquiao.

But it turned out to be a three-hour waiting game for the boxer's son.

"Maybe he was caught in traffic," said one employee at the gym, who took a break to get a glimpse of Pacquiao. Another joked that the boxer was probably cutting all the way from General Santos City for his hometown, that's why it had taken so long. A city official had passed a resolution this year that adopted the popular boxing figure as a son of the city. "He consistently pushes and motivates our athletes in boxing and his well-known commitment to promote the sport among the youth would make Parañaque a true haven of the sport," the resolution said.

Pacquiao showed up at about midnight, dark blue polo shirt and jeans, three hours later than the scheduled program, and apologized for his delay. He said he will not forget to tell his son about his appointment, adding that he had also finished shooting a scene of *Darna* (pending).

Mayor Francisco Bernaldo and city councilors welcomed Pacquiao at their party.

"I am very thankful that you have accepted me wholeheartedly in Parañaque City," Pacquiao said. "I hope for your continuous support so I could continue making Parañaque and my money proud," he said. Parañaque is the second city after Manila, to adopt the boxing champion. Manila adopted Pacquiao in August 2005.

The boxer also came properly in the city and is currently facing charges in connection with the 2009



BOXING champion Manny Pacquiao (in dark glasses) showing up in Parañaque after making his late wait for three hours, but City Mayor Francisco Bernaldo (right) gave him a hearty welcome just the same. (no more entries)



BOXING champion Manny Pacquiao (in dark glasses) showing up in Parañaque after making his late wait for three hours, but City Mayor Francisco Bernaldo (right) gave him a hearty welcome just the same. (no more entries)

Cainta garbage site closed

By Brenda S. Rivera

CAINTA town could enter a week in the coming days after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) closed its garbage transfer station in the town.

The DENR issued a cease-and-desist order against the local government's operations in Barangay San Isidro, which were located around 70 tons of garbage from the municipality every day.

National Secretary Genaro Francisco III, head of the National Solid Waste Management Commission, said the transfer station was operating without an environmental compliance certificate and a license to operate.

"They asked for more time and they could find a few transfer stations, but what could we do? We have to implement the law. We can provide technical assistance, but their problem is where to find a new place," Francis said.

Francis and Carlos Mayo III, Region 3 director, said the site at the DENR compound on Ortigas Avenue Extension after transfer of nearby businesses had not started about the last closed from the site.

Criminals turned off by well-lit streets of Manila

By Margene C. Ortiz

STREET lights would be the last thing you see when you leave your house.

During the dry government's lighting program, Manila Police Director (MPS) Director Chief Santos Rodriguez (MPS) director

day announced that the crime rate in the city decreased by 14 percent during the second quarter of 2011 as compared to the same period last year.

"Criminal activities usually take place in dark areas," Rodriguez said in an interview, adding that the

lighting facilities in public areas like major thoroughfares, alleys, and parks had been helped to increase the crime rate.

The police chief also announced that the MPS's recent program and projects also played a big role in the light

against criminality.

Based on quarterly statistics, a total of 202 crime cases were recorded from May to July 2011, as compared to 234 incidents in the same period last year.

The police chief said crimes against property significantly

dropped from 126 ordinary and 36 theft cases in 2010 to 97 ordinary and 34 theft incidents this year. Robbery against persons also decreased from 42 to 40 ordinary cases, and from 31 to 19 homicide incidents, based on their crime statistics.

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FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2005

BUSINESS

B 3

Get tax cases moving, BIR told

By Michella V. Remo

FINANCE Secretary Margarito Teves has given the Bureau of Internal Revenue a month to provide the data the Department of Justice needs to get tax evasion cases moving in the courts.

The DOF and the BIR have filed over 20 tax evasion cases with the DOJ under the Run After Tax Evaders Program (RATE), the intensified anti-tax evasion campaign under which tax evasion cases against high-profile individuals are filed every week.

But since the program's launching in March, the DOJ has not filed a single case in the appropriate courts.

Teves said he met recently with

revenue officials and told them to quickly provide the requirements asked by the DOJ to speed up the processing of the cases.

Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonaoan earlier said the DOF was open to filing the tax cases directly with the courts, instead of going through the DOJ, to address the delay.

But Justice Secretary Paul Gonzales traced the delay to the haphazard filing of cases by the BIR and the DOF, therefore making it difficult for the DOJ to quickly process the cases.

For her part, BIR Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares

had said the delay had to do with the inexperience of both the BIR and the DOJ in regularly filing tax evasion cases.

She said it was the first time that the government had initiated a program like RATE.

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Shares close . . .

From page B1

index rose 25.28 points to 1,999.82 after trading between 1,974.54 and 2,003.40. The all-shares index rose 14.88 points to 1,201.31.

Volume amounted to 502.6 million shares worth P17.4 billion (\$31 million dollars). Gainers led losers 73 to 11, with 31 stocks unchanged.

"Money is clearly pouring into equities on expectations of better earnings results and the economy's resilience in the second quarter and moving forward," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities. **AFP**

Cocktales

From page B5

did Locsin have to borrow P1.922 million in housing loan from a Philcomsat subsidiary right after his 2003 appointment?

Even better, a year after, Locsin had paid only the grandsum of P67,857 for the loan.

At that rate, it would take Locsin over 28 years to fully amortize the loan, outlasting even GMA and most likely the natural life of his brother, Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr.

Heard through the grapevine

PARALLEL importer Lucio Co of Puregold fame has acquired all 10 stores of the ailing Uniwide chain, bringing Puregold's total store count to 24.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pichid.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

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COGO & Tre bags are made in shops with quality fabric. **SCOOTER**, yellow canvas tote with blue and white print. **leather shoes**, P. 1,995. **cream-colored canvas bag** with white and blue print, P. 1,995.

Meet the Imeldific ladies behind Saguto Manila



MULTI-COLOR flip-flops are a handy and ideal accessory for a beach wardrobe. P500 per pair.

The shoe-holics and the bag lady

THEY have shared a passion for fashion, but it is their special fondness for shoes that has made them join forces and start a business.

Under Treen, Jon Calma-Summons, Joyce Mendillo and Theresa Santos have been good friends since high school in Immaculate Conception, but it took more than a decade plus constant exchange of shoes and dreams to finally put up their long-awaited shoe brand called Saguto Manila.

Because of their insatiable love for shoes and the constant search for cheap but chic and fashionable finds, the four friends decided to take matters into their own hands. "We already had our bag business so we both thought that it was not natural to get into the shoe business, so well," says Treen, who made up fashion and styling in New York and Paris and worked for Glens here in Manila. Besides, it seemed like everything was made in China and we really wanted to feature on Philippine-made shoes that are stylish, trendy and of good quality," Treen adds.



APPLES' PICKINGS

Apple's favorite: *Apple's favorite: Saguto Manila*

With this in mind, they decided to dedicate to shoes for two years and find suppliers that could work with.

Fortunately, Jon was already familiar with the place because Jon Calma & Tre bags are also manufactured there. This is quite the start and drove inspiration from everything around her, he is a stylish woman with indomitable sense of a particular art piece.

Research and development

"We also do a lot of research. We know the business, read some magazines, try to find inspiration and learn as much as we can," says the wife and president of the brand.

"When we were developing our shoe line, we took several things into consideration. There are, for example, comfort and, of course, fashion-forward design."

JOYCE MENDILLO



"SUPPORT the Filipino entrepreneur," says Mendillo. That's Jon Calma-Summons, Joyce Mendillo, Jon Calma-Summons and Nicky Treen, who are co-founders of their locally made shoe brand with the hopes of going global in the future.

MY PERSONAL favorite are those with a white leather strap and a yellow flower design. P500.

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LIFESTYLE

The true, the good and the beautiful

By Juliana Guerrero
Contributor

When it comes to jewelry, there are two sides to the coin. On one side, there is the art of jewelry making, which is a craft that takes time and skill to perfect. On the other side, there is the art of wearing jewelry, which is a way of expressing one's personality and style.

Yves G. Piaget, the founder of the Piaget jewelry brand, is a man who has mastered both sides of the coin. He is a man who has spent his entire life perfecting the art of jewelry making, and he is a man who has also mastered the art of wearing jewelry. He is a man who has created some of the most beautiful and valuable pieces of jewelry in the world, and he is a man who has also worn some of the most beautiful and valuable pieces of jewelry in the world.

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The Piaget jewelry brand is a brand that is known for its exceptional quality and its timeless designs. The brand has a long history of creating beautiful and valuable pieces of jewelry, and it continues to do so today. The brand is a brand that is truly the true, the good, and the beautiful.

Wearable art
Piaget is quick to say that his

Yves G. Piaget of the famous jewelry and watch line believes true luxury is found in authentic things, like leather, wood and gold

artistic are more than watch-making. They are art, and, like any art, they are created with passion and skill. Piaget is a man who believes in the power of authentic things, and he is a man who has created some of the most beautiful and valuable pieces of jewelry in the world.

The Piaget jewelry brand is a brand that is known for its exceptional quality and its timeless designs. The brand has a long history of creating beautiful and valuable pieces of jewelry, and it continues to do so today. The brand is a brand that is truly the true, the good, and the beautiful.



YVES Piaget flanked by models wearing the luxury brand's latest collection



HSBC Promoted watch brand

watch. The piece embodies the spirit of the "Polo" brand, which is known for its sporty and sophisticated designs. The watch is a perfect example of the Piaget brand's commitment to quality and craftsmanship.



PIAGET Polo 2004

of understated beauty that looks really elegant.

Wearable art

The Piaget Polo watch is a perfect example of the brand's commitment to quality and craftsmanship. It is a watch that is truly the true, the good, and the beautiful.

Since he is the only male model in the group, the Piaget Polo 2004 did not last long among the women's pieces. It lasted among the gold and diamond pieces, the watch, which means it also for both men and women, is a true piece of wearable art. Yves Piaget himself wears an earlier model of the watch, with a diamond bracelet and a metal case. It is a perfect accessory for the classic man.

Piaget's jewelry and watches are truly wearable art. They are pieces of jewelry that are not only beautiful but also functional. They are pieces of jewelry that are truly the true, the good, and the beautiful.

LOVE yourself. Win it all. HSBC Red MasterCard's 'Love Yourself' raffle gives women the chance to try on a diamond ring.

Gem of power

MMCT not exempted from diamond in pink gift by Wynn Wynn Ong

DIAMONDS are a woman's best friend. The HSBC Red MasterCard 'Love Yourself' raffle gives women the chance to try on a diamond ring.

THE ENCOURAGE women to wear the diamond ring as a signal of their empowerment, the HSBC Red MasterCard, the first credit card exclusively for women, is giving new and current cardholders a chance to win a GLS certified 1.39-carat solo diamond ring through the "Love Yourself" raffle.

"This is a way of the power," said Maria Angeles, HSBC vice president for credit card marketing.

For the women in the jewelry trade, the diamond ring is a symbol of power. It is a ring that is truly the true, the good, and the beautiful.

MMCT not exempted from diamond in pink gift by Wynn Wynn Ong

I would actually design for the middle or high-end—that symbolizes empowerment," said Ong. "My jewelry is designed to have an art-like—whether it's a piece of jewelry or a piece of art. It's a piece of art that is truly the true, the good, and the beautiful."

The power jewelry designed and jewelry must be created by hand.

"This is not the age of technology. Women are aware of their power by wearing their jewelry and a strong piece of jewelry can represent the real power."

Young Italian jewelry designer Clara Marzulli goes for gold and has. "When women are in the spotlight, there's no better companion than a diamond ring. It's a piece of jewelry that is truly the true, the good, and the beautiful."

Michelle Ng, a jewelry designer, says she has a lot of jewelry that is truly the true, the good, and the beautiful.

The women's jewelry and watch line is a true piece of wearable art. It is a piece of jewelry that is truly the true, the good, and the beautiful.

That rare
pearl

TABLE 10-10 (continued)

WHILE anti-GMA protesters filled the streets of Ayala several days ago, some of Manila's moneyed flocked to another side of the island in an altogether different kind of assembly.

The event was the jewelry-fashion show at Brooks, at the Loft in Brooklyn Union, the by invitation, evening was attended by the jewelry-maker's dealer clients, primarily from the Chinese community.

The chaotic scene from *Apocalypse* was a stark contrast to the Israeli festivities, with the entire crowd hallelu! The Lubliner pail women, yeshivish beauties serving spirits and bits of *knishkes* to the professional attendees belched in their running shoes and sweat.

"The jewelry business has been a challenge. I have no idea," whispered Co with a cry of pain on his face. "But we just have to do what we have to do."

Go is the co-owner and chief designer of Japanese-trained tracks, founded by his father in the family post farm in Sandown, New Zealand.

Polawski wore nine mugs. "We can't help but be proud of our pinkey. It is proudly made in the Philippines," he said. "It is designed by local artists and made by Filipino artists. Check it."

"Everything is handmade," attests Kent Parsons, the brand's manager who is devoted

Hauschild shows you in broadest terms the origins of its new direction at The Pavilion in New York City. Dubbed "A Touch of White Magic," Hauschild's new collection is a showcase not only of great South Sea pearls, but also their mingling with other precious natural stone-like diamonds, sapphires and rubies.

"It's not just jewelry, that's why we incorporated cultural items. We don't make ordinary jewelry," said Shumway Chen-Ng, another Kwan designer. She holds a graduate degree from the Ethnological Institute of Taiwan.

The *Utricularia* were collected on falls under four

Urban Zen is aimed at younger firms, with bright, less polished interiors in yellow, gold or vibrant blue designs. Designed by the young firm, Urban Zen has a decidedly casual

and mental effects.

Chauhry's Gramercy collection takes its cue from the original shapes of architectural landmarks like the Sydney Opera House and the Louvre, with black and white South Sea pearls and diamonds set in 14K and 18K gold.

Co., for his part, chooses the theme fabric to show off the intricate rim-like interlacing of diamonds, topazs, beryl, jade and blue sapphires and the vibrant South Sea pearls, in 14-k and 18-k gold. The design also weaves layers upon layers of black and white South Sea pearls for New Balance.

"The only thing Filipino jewelry without lack, perhaps, is in the technical aspect," Cuatrecasas says. "Design-wise, we're as put with the world's best."

On, Chai Ng and Limson are award winners in various international jewelry design competitions.

These days owning beautiful jewelry is no longer an exclusive domain of the affluent few. Jewelry is for all.

"At Haseki, we make pieces that even suppliers can afford," says PZ, "we do the best." He said to expect diamonds and more colorful pieces toward the end of the year.



NEW European studies of white and champagne Gault have nearly cut in half

PML Exclusion collection sheet



GEOMETRIC plots are by Sharnine & Associates.



FOUR Bed posts, chair and table carved in Wood Sumatra's Urban Tan design. Above right, more sculptural pieces for One-Ny



MORE boldly romantic designs of pearls, diamonds and gold for the Eden collection